

Fort Dobbs Gazette

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PREPARING THE TROOPS: Fort Dobbs Completes Feasibility Study

Over the course of the past six months, Fort Dobbs staff and the Friends of Fort Dobbs have worked closely with Capital Development Services, a full-service fundraising counsel, to assess the feasibility of a capital campaign for Fort Dobbs. The Capital Development team presented their report to the Board of Trustees of the Friends of Fort Dobbs on April 22nd.



Secretary of Cultural Resources Linda Carlisle inspects Fort Dobbs troops at Fort Dobbs during War for Empire, April 2009

The report concluded that the Friends of Fort Dobbs can conduct a successful capital campaign when economic conditions have improved and when work is complete on the recommendations found in the report. The thirty feasibility study interviews revealed tremendous

positive support for Fort Dobbs. Areas of improvement identified by Capital Development Services include an enhanced case for support, increased community awareness about the Fort, and advanced cultivation of volunteers and donors for the campaign. The Friends of Fort Dobbs Board of

Trustees appreciate the assistance of all study participants and value greatly the candor and insights shared during the interviews. There is much work to be done in order to make this dream a reality and the Fort Dobbs staff and Board of Trustees are excited to move this significant and worthy project forward.

Dispatch from the Fort by Beth L. Hill, Historic Site Manager



The award-winning Fort Dobbs Gazette is a quarterly publication for the Friends of Fort Dobbs and other fort supporters. The objectives of the Gazette are threefold: first, to inform the Friends of Fort Dobbs about the site and its

ongoing commitment to the preservation and interpretation of Fort Dobbs and the broader history of the French and Indian War; second, to foster and nurture a close relationship with persons who are committed to the future of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site; and, third, to provide an opportunity for the staff at Fort Dobbs to publish reports on their work, achievements and scholarship. I hope that you

find the information in the Gazette worthwhile and interesting while it reaches a variety of audiences that find value and meaning in the work of Fort Dobbs. The format of the Gazette offers something for everyone including highlighted articles featuring programs presently offered and plans for the site’s future. Additional series, including *Relics of the Past*, provide insight into Fort Dobbs’ collections. A featured article on our recent scholarship is found in every issue along with period text in *When It Was News* article. The *Photos from the Frontier* provide a great opportunity to see Fort Dobbs’ highly acclaimed programs made possible by your support. Fort Dobbs’ staff is eager to hear from you to learn how we can better serve our supporters and the site’s history through this publication. *Enjoy the Gazette!* BH

‘Beautifully Scituated’: Long-Range Interpretive Plan Begins

In December 1756, Fort Dobbs was described as being “beautifully scituated in the fork of Fourth Creek.” Today we are again beautifully situated with a rare opportunity to plan for the site’s development as a premier historic site. As part of the site’s development proposed in the Fort Dobbs’ Strategic Plan and supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ *Museums for America* grant, Fort Dobbs has selected Haley Sharpe Design, an international design and planning firm, to develop the site’s Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP). Haley Sharpe Design’s impressive N. American client list includes Jamestown Island, Mystic Seaport, The Royal Ontario Museum, and Fort Stanwix.



In the UK and Europe, Haley Sharpe Design’s clients include The Museum at Liverpool and the Netherlands’ National Museum of Antiquities. Haley Sharpe’s work worldwide also includes museums in the Middle East and Southern Africa. The planning process will commence in June 2009 and will determine appropriate interpretive services, facilities, programs and media to communicate in the most effective way the site’s purpose, significance, compelling stories, themes, and value while protecting and preserving site resources. The anticipated completion date for the LRIP is January 2010. This exciting project will provide direction for staff and enable supporters to visualize the future site.

Living History Update: War, Hazard, Moravians and Bounty!

April’s *War for Empire: 1759* event was full of great interpretive moments. More than 3500 Visitors gained an important understanding of the Anglo-Cherokee War through first-person vignettes whose dialogue was taken almost entirely from original quotes. This year’s demonstration of the attack on Fort Dobbs was likely the closest yet to the events and movements of the actual battle. Staff were very impressed by the depth of knowledge that was freely shared with the visiting public by re-enactors. On May 9-10, the second of 2009’s living history weekends took place at the site. Besides witnessing daily garrison duties, the public was also able to join in with the soldiers and try their skill



NC Provincials at Fort Dobbs, April 2009

at 18th cent. games such as cricket, cards and the popular dice game, Hazard. The fort’s garrison made appearances at the annual North Carolina Tourism Day in Raleigh, as well as at the Charlotte Museum of History during their celebration of local history on “Mec-Dec Day.” On June 6th, the garrison presented a program at Historic Bethabara, the site of the main settlement of Germanic Moravians at the time of the French and Indian War. July 25-26 will be the next living history weekend back at the fort. The event will feature a recruiting party of NC Provincials “enlisting” visitors as new soldiers into the service of the colony. Take your bounty money and make use of your skills in the service of the royal colony!

When it Was News 1759

Letter from Arthur Dobbs to

The Board of Trade of Great Britain

New Bern 18th of May 1759

My Lords, ...I hope by the blessing of God we shall soon after this campaign have a glorious peace, and then His Majesty will have no great Demands upon this Province, which will prevent the Encroachments of the Assembly upon the Prerogative, and then they will have time to cool and act for the General good of the Colony. Had the Aid Bill passed in the form they insisted on it would have been of no service to his Majesty, they had lowered the Bounty money granted last year of £10 procl. to £5. and with that Bounty last year

we could not raise above 200 men, when the number should have been 300, and these if enlisted could not be ready before the end of July, so that the Campaign would have been over before they could join the Army, and were to return to be disbanded by the 10th of Dec^{er} and for this imaginary Aid which they expected, Britain was to pay, His Majesty was to give up His Prerogative and the Rights of the Council...

I have nothing to add, but am with great regard

My Lords &c,

ARTHUR DOBBS

Photos From the Frontier



Little Carpenter & Hugh Waddell



Under attack, *War for Empire 1759*, Cotton Ketchie Photo



Jim and Barbee Mullins



Civilian contemplating service to colony



Cherokee debate course of war



Cherokee Warrior *Cotton Ketchie Photo*



Students from Salisbury pressed into service during *War for Empire* student day, April 17



Like two brothers falling out



Haste to the Wedding dance, War for Empire 1759



Attack on Fort Dobbs



The lusty young smith

Photos From the Frontier



Steven Bell, Secretary Carlisle and Beth Hill
War for Empire 1759



Atta Kul Kulla, Cherokee Peace Chief



Dusk at War for Empire, 1759



Injured soldier attended to by fort surgeon



Diversions, Garrison Weekend, May 2009



Boys ready themselves to defend the colonial frontier



A lovely tune delights visitors



Wagoneer awaits orders



Fort Dobbs Garrison at Charlotte Museum of History "Mec Dec" program, May 16, 2009



Retreat! *Cotton Ketchie Photo*



Children learn about life of Fort Dobbs' soldiers

Photos From the Frontier



The beautiful Mistress Bell!



Visit by Cherokee friend, *With the Greatest Attention to Command*, Garrison Weekend, March 2009



Robert Mouland as Michael Keane



Beth Hill with young fort supporter



Diversions, cricket game, May 2009



North Carolina Provincial Frontier Company



Cricket—frontier style!



Tailor takes up arms



Students learn about food-ways at *WFE 1759*



Smoke fills the air while fort is under attack



Susan and Riley Douglas, May 2009



A new member is adopted by the Cherokee

Lyttleton's Folly: 1759

And the Beginning of the Cherokee War

Scott Douglas

When the French and Indian War began in 1754, the native tribes that lived beyond North Carolina's western frontier, including the Catawba and Cherokee, were allies to the English and aided them in their struggle against the French on several occasions. English settlers living along the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers were therefore somewhat surprised to be attacked by the Cherokee in the spring of 1759, resulting in the death and capture of dozens of their neighbors.

The Cherokee had first allied themselves with Britain's colonies in 1715 during the Tuscarora War and made a formal treaty with South Carolina in 1721. Significantly, the English and Cherokee both agreed that if any one of their nation should murder a member of the other, then that guilty person should be turned over for punishment. Relations were warm enough that in 1730, several Cherokee emissaries traveled to London to meet King George II. This group included Atta Kul Kulla, then a boy of fourteen.



1730 Cherokee delegation to England.
(Atta Kul Kulla is on the far right)

Following a costly war against the Creeks, the Cherokee re-affirmed their alliance with South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia in 1754. They agreed to wage war on the French, but first asked that forts be constructed in their territory for the protection of their families while the warriors were away. Fort Prince George had already been constructed near the Cherokee town of Keowee when a second post, Fort Loudoun, was erected in the Overhills country near the principal town of Chote. Fort Loudoun was intended to counter the threat from the French forts of Toulouse and Massac in modern-day Alabama and Illinois, respectively. A third fort was also begun by Virginia near the Overhills towns, but was never completed.

The official boundary between the Cherokee and most of South Carolina had been established along Long Canes Creek. It did not take long for settlers to begin crossing out of English territory in search of game and land. In 1756 English squatters along the Broad River

were driven off by Cherokees, who took their livestock and severely beat one man. With the settlers gone, their cabins were burned.

In 1757, a group of Cherokee hunters were brutally killed by Long Canes settlers who also stole their deerskins. Citing their earlier agreement to turn over murderers, the Cherokees appealed to Governor William Henry Lyttleton. Lyttleton claimed however, that it would be impossible for him to discover who the guilty parties were and therefore could not turn them over for punishment.

The culture of the Cherokee required that a balance be maintained between families or tribes where murder was concerned. Having lost their tribesmen to English killers, the Cherokee felt that justice was served only if an equal number of Englishmen were killed in turn, even if those individuals had not actually committed the crime. This notion was, of course, abhorrent to the notions of crime and punishment in the world of the English. Misunderstanding the importance of this issue to the Cherokee, Lyttleton considered the matter ended.

Having participated in earlier expeditions against the French, hundreds of Cherokee warriors passed through the Carolinas and Virginia during the spring of 1758 to take part in the campaign led by General Forbes to take the French Fort Duquesne. One group of warriors from whose town the murdered hunting party of the year before were, took their delayed revenge by killing several Virginians in March. While in Pennsylvania, the warriors found themselves sitting idly while roads and forts were methodically constructed in a slow advance to the west. Besides the lack of direct military action, the Cherokees were disheartened by a serious lack of supplies and trade goods that had been promised by the English. Fed up, many warriors left Forbes' army and began heading south.

One of these parties was ambushed by Virginians who supposedly mistook them for enemy Indians. To add insult to injury, the scalps of these unfortunate men were sent to Williamsburg in exchange for bounty money. With similar attacks occurring throughout the summer, nearly thirty Cherokees had been killed by the English by the fall.



Fort Prince George, SC

As soon as the weather allowed the following spring, a war party from the Overhills town of Settico, which had lost the most men in the violence of the previous year, set out for the closest English settlements to the east. In the fertile lands between the Catawba and Yadkin Rivers, nearly twenty English colonists were killed or taken



The fortified town of Bethabara

captive. Terror sped through the countryside as word spread of killings, such as that of John Hannah's entire family, including six children. It was reported that, "the back Settlers had... mostly quitted their habitations, and taken shelter in Fort Dobbs." Many people who were east of the Yadkin found refuge at the Moravian settlement of Bethabara, around which a stockade had been constructed.

Never having reserved much love for his western neighbors, King Hagler of the Catawba sent some of his own warriors after the Cherokee. The group led by Matthew Tool entered the western mountains, but were unsuccessful in engaging the Cherokees. Hagler himself headed to Charlestown to reassure Lyttleton of the continued loyalty of his people and stir up the Governor's anger with the Cherokee.

Lyttleton demanded that the Cherokee turn over all those who had participated in the Yadkin killings. As the warriors had only done what was expected of them by a culture that settled blood with blood, no one thought they deserved to be punished by the English and so they remained at home. In a gesture of peace however, the scalps of those killed were turned over to the commander of Fort Loudoun and buried.

In July, rumors of a planned slave uprising spread fear across South Carolina. At the same time, word arrived that the French were promising assistance to the Cherokee should they openly fight the English, further increasing Lyttleton's distrust of the Cherokee's intentions. Lyttleton imposed an embargo on all goods destined for the Cherokee trade, especially ammunition. As the fall hunting season approached, the Cherokee became more and more distressed by the lack of gunpowder and lead, on which they depended to hunt game.

Meanwhile in North Carolina, Governor Arthur Dobbs dispatched the newly promoted Colonel Hugh Waddell with a company of provincials and six swivel cannon to the frontier. During the April attacks, the frontier had only been defended by local militia. Virginia also shifted men to the frontier and in August re-affirmed their peace with the Cherokee.

In South Carolina's forts, roguish behavior by some of the regular army officer's manning them served to provoke the situation further. Lieutenant Richard Coytmore, the commander of Fort Prince George, openly mocked the Cherokee in contact with his post, and possibly even participated in the rape of a Cherokee wife. At Fort Loudoun, an ensign was confined for selling liquor to the Indians, which was strictly prohibited. In the midst of rising tension, a soldier of the garrison was scalped outside the fort in September.

Attempting to avoid an open war, a delegation of two dozen Cherokees, including Atta Kul Kulla and Oconostota, set out for Charlestown in October to speak with Lyttleton in person. Lyttleton met them just west of Charlestown, where he had been assembling a force of 1,400 soldiers to march into the Cherokees' country. Refusing to make any agreement with them, he escorted the emissaries back to Fort Prince George and held most of them as prisoners. He agreed to release Atta Kul Kulla and Oconostota, with the demands that they turn in the men who had killed settlers in the spring. Only with the guilty parties in hand, would he exchange the remaining hostages.

On December 26, Lyttleton concluded a treaty with the Cherokee that was hardly bearable for them. He demanded not only that they turn over their men for English punishment, but also that they promise to kill any Frenchman who should set foot in their territory. With the enlistments of many of his soldiers about to expire, Lyttleton then marched back to Charlestown with the bulk of his force.

Encroachment by English settlers on Cherokee lands touched off incidents of violence that caused a storm of cultural misunderstanding and mutual distrust. Lyttleton's bullish attempt to display his military might temporarily pacified the Cherokees, but would lead to an even more violent two years of open warfare between former allies that would consume the entire frontier of both Carolina's and Georgia.



Oconostota

For Further Reading

- Hatley, Thomas. *The Dividing Paths: Cherokees and South Carolinians through the Era of Revolution*. Oxford University Press, New York. 1993.
- Lee, E. Lawrence. *Indian Wars in North Carolina, 1663-1763*. North Carolina Department of Archives and History, Raleigh. 1997.
- Oliphant, John. *Peace and War on the Anglo-Cherokee Frontier, 1756-63*. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 2001.

Relics of the Past: Artillery

As he planned the defense of Fort Dobbs in 1755, Governor Arthur Dobbs mentioned that the only artillery that would be required for the fort on the western frontier were swivel guns and musquitoons (very large caliber muskets.) Swivel guns of iron or bronze were typically used on the top decks of ships and the ramparts of fortifications. Being smaller caliber guns, their primary purpose was to act as anti-personnel weapons. When firing at a distant target, solid shot of lead or iron, such as the one pictured here, would be used to inflict devastating damage on a human body. If enemy troops were close, several musket ball-sized shot could spray over a wide area; hitting several men at once, as with a shotgun.



Image courtesy of the NC Office of State Archaeology Research Center

One iron solid shot was found in the excavations of Fort Dobbs. The ball is 1 5/8 inches in diameter and was found in the cellar of the fort. Before losing material to corrosion, the ball may have been as much as 1/8 inch larger and would have weighed about eight ounces. As such, the swivel gun that fired it was referred to as a “half-pounder.”

Although Dobbs made his recommendation for the armament of western fort in 1755, we do not know if these weapons were provided right away. By the summer of 1759 however, the fort certainly received its guns. According to the Pennsylvania Gazette six guns were sent with Colonel Hugh Waddell when he was dispatched to bolster the defense of the frontier against heavy Cherokee attacks. It is likely that during the February, 1760 attack, the guns of Fort Dobbs flung shot such as the piece shown above into the darkness against the Cherokee war party that surrounded the post.



Iron swivel gun recovered from the site of Fort Ligonier, PA

New Summer Programs: “Hands-On History” & “Digging History”

Take advantage of free time travel adventures this summer at Fort Dobbs State Historic Site! “Hands-On History,” a new-three part interactive program, will kick off Saturday, June 20th. At 10am and 2pm, visitors will learn how an 18th century musket is loaded with ammunition and fired. Visitors will craft their own cartridge as a souvenir (dummy cartridge safe for children of all ages!) utilizing the methods the soldiers did 250 years ago. Every third Saturday in June, July and August, Fort Dobbs will present 30 minute interactive hands-on learning experiences tied to the history of the fort.

Each session will allow visitors to gain deeper insights into what life was like for the soldiers garrisoned at Fort Dobbs. “Digging History,” an interactive archaeology program, for students 8 yrs and older, will debut at the Gemstone District’s Cub Scout Day Camp held at Fort Dobbs, June 15th-19th. The program will engage students in the methods and practices of archaeological investigation and provide them with a greater understanding about the history of Fort Dobbs. “Digging History” will be offered throughout the year for registered groups.

All educational programs are supported by the Friends of Fort Dobbs!

Fort Dobbs Exhibit at Statesville Airport



A new exhibit on Fort Dobbs will be displayed at the Statesville Airport this summer. The exhibit, sponsored by Statesville Flying Service, will include three panels: World at War; Guarding the Frontier; and Fort Dobbs State Historic Site. Visitors to the airport will have the opportunity to learn about NC’s unique and significant role in the war that made America.

Controlled Growth Plan for Site Landscape

Visitors to Fort Dobbs, along with the 4000 vehicles that pass through the site everyday, will notice a big change to the site’s landscape this summer. The NC Division of State Historic Sites has required its sites to develop and implement a controlled growth plan for its landscape. The policy reaches two essential goals: to create a more accurate interpretive landscape setting; and to conserve funding resources due to rigorous budget requirements. Under this plan, the parking lot, roadside and recreational area will continue to be mowed regularly. The western and southern fields will grow indigenous grass and be mowed twice a year. This plan is the beginning of a long process that will eventually transform Fort Dobbs’ landscape to more accurately represent its history.

FRIENDS OF FORT DOBBS ROLL CALL

The Friends of Fort Dobbs supports the mission of Fort Dobbs State Historic Site:

"To preserve and interpret North Carolina's only French and Indian War fort."

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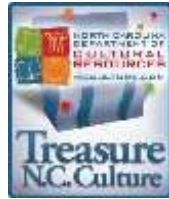


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